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GENERAL NEWS OF THE ART WORLD.

Last winter Dr. Charles Waldstein, professor of archaeology in Cambridge University, England, formerly of the faculty of Columbia University, New York, and for several years director of the American School of Classical Study at Athens, made a tour of the United States for the purpose of organizing a society for the excavation of Herculaneum. He conducted his propaganda under the auspices of the American Institute of Archaeology, delivered addresses before the local branches of that society in New York, Washington, Chicago and elsewhere, was cordially received at the White House, excited the sympathy and secured the co-operation of the President and many other distinguished men. He made a tour of Europe on the same errand and with the same success. The King of England, the President of France, the Emperor of Germany and the King of Italy all promised their active co-operation, which gave the movement greater strength, perhaps, than any similar undertaking ever acquired. All this was very necessary, however, because the scheme required the consent of the Italian parliament and a large sum of money, estimated all the way from $500,000 to $2,000,000. Before the work can be attempted, however, it will be necessary to obtain the permission of the Italian government and purchase the property of many residents of Resina. This Dr. Waldstein expected to do and it is said that he secured a sufficient number of subscriptions to cover the cost. The King of Italy was willing to have the work done under the direction and at the expense of an international association, but through the influence of local archaeologists the Italian parliament has rejected the proposition and on April 22 passed a resolution proposed by the minister of public instruction, declaring that the work should be done by the Italians themselves. In his speech the minister said that his department would gladly accept any suggestions, information and contributions of money that might be made by foreign societies or individuals, but it would not allow any foreign interference and much less control of the work.

The second annual Competitive Exhibition of paintings by American artists recently closed at Watertown, N. Y. Following the plan inaugurated last year, the admission fee was ten cents, which entitled the visitor to a vote; 4,797 votes were cast and the picture receiving the greatest number was purchased for the Municipal Art Gallery. This honor was won by F. K. M. Rehn whose picture of "A June Evening" has been

added to the Charles Warren Eaton and the Robert David Gauley purchased last year. Illustrations of these paintings were sold and the proceeds used to help defray the expenses. The exhibition was selected by Charles Frederick Naegele.

The Museum of the Louvre has acquired another Rembrandt in the form of a gift. It was first intended as a legacy, but the giver acceded to the request for a loan of the picture, awaiting the date, sooner or later, when, like other mortals, he must leave matters in the hands of his executors. Comte Potocki, a member of a rich Polish family, known to Paris for generations and well known as a collector of precious objects of art, is the donor in question. He had signified his intention of leaving this Rembrandt to the Louvre upon his death, but was asked to loan it in the meantime so that it could be placed with other examples of the famous painter. Accordingly the picture was placed in the Louvre. It is a portrait of Rembrandt's brother, Adriden Hermansz van Rijn, eight or nine years older than Rembrandt himself and of whom Rembrandt painted a portrait several times.

The contract for the new building for the Boston Museum will soon be signed. The building will be erected in Huntington Avenue and will stand on a twelve-acre plot. In the year the museum has received bequests amounting to $344,677.59. Of these, that of Martin Brimmer was the largest, amounting to $269,677.59.

At the annual meeting of the National Academy of Design, held at the Academy, 109th street and Amsterdam avenue, New York, the following officers were elected: President, Frederick Dielman; Vice President, Herbert Adams; Corresponding Secretary, Harry W. Watrous; Recording Secretary, Kenyon Cox, and Treasurer, Francis C. Jones. As members of the council Ben Foster, J. C. Nicoll, Will H. Low, Wm. Sergeant Kendall, J. Alden Weir and Henry B. Snell were elected. Academicians chosen are Paul Dougherty, Edward Gay, W. L. Lathrop, Charles F. McKim, Howard Pyle, W. Elmer Schofield, R. W. Van Boskerck, Charles H. Woodbury, William Gedney Bunce and Charles Melville Dewey.

The Salmagundi Club annual library dinner was held recently. The usual twenty-four library mugs were sold at auction by the chairman of the Library Committee, W. H. Shelton. The sum realized for the library fund was $953. A Spanish mug, painted by L. Louis Mora, was bought for J. Sanford Saltus at the upset price of $505. Mr. Saltus bought the mug last year by Edwin A. Abbey for $451. A mug by Cullen Yates went to W. T. Evans for $50 and one by Granville Smith and another by Geajiro Yeto for $50 each to George A. Zabriskie. A mug by Albert Groll—"Arizona Landscape"—was bought by E. W. Coggeshall for $45, and one by Leonard Ochtman went to Stewart Culin for $25.

The growing number of forgeries and copies with signatures, of pictures by noted American painters that have appeared and are appearing in auction rooms and elsewhere this season is attracting attention, and it is evident that a new factory is at work. A transparent forgery of Shurtleff was sold at an auction on Fifth avenue and this good

painter is being imitated constantly. J. Francis Murphy, William M. Chase and the dead Homer Martin and George Inness are the painters whose works are now being most imitated with the greatest success. Some of these forgeries are so cleverly done as to deceive the reputable auctioneers who handle them.

The Nebraska Art association has taken on new life, fresh vigor and zeal. The officers feel greatly encouraged over the new alliance made with the university art club of Kansas City, Mo., and the art department of the state university at Lawrence. It is thought that this will materially heighten the standing of the Nebraska Art association with all eastern artists, and that hereafter it will be a comparatively easy matter to get the very best artists in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, and other art centers to send their pictures to be exhibited in this circuit.

Two more paintings have been added to the William T. Evans National Gallery collection—Thomas W. Dewing's "Summer Pastime," which Mr. Evans purchased at the Stanford White sale, and Sargeant Kendall's "An Interlude," which he procured at the National Academy's recent exhibition.

A collection of three hundred photographs of great works of art in the Imperial museums and private collections of Japan has been presented to the Library of Congress by the Japanese government. This is the third time that a foreign nation has contributed to our national print collection. In 1903 France gave two hundred and fifty engravings of paintings in the Louvre and Luxembourg, and in 1905 Germany contributed a large and valuable collection of facsimiles of famous engravings and woodcuts in the Berlin Museum. The Japanese collection includes reproductions of paintings, sculpture, carvings and architectural designs and gives an insight into the aristocratic art of the Orient which at present can be obtained in no other way.

A new experiment is being tried by the art committee of the New York State Federation in sending to various clubs a collection of copies of famous paintings. The collection of forty pictures has been on exhibition at the clubhouse of the Monday Afternoon Club, in Binghamton, N. Y., for a week. The interest in these exhibitions has been so great that the State Federation probably will establish a New York State art institute, which will furnish collections of original paintings and copies of famous pictures under the auspices of women's clubs.

Sir Purdon Clarke and his staff gave a private view of the recent accessions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York recently. The purchase of the portrait group of the "Charpentier Family," by Renoir, was officially admitted. It was bought for the museum at the recent Charpentier sale in Paris for $18,480. While the museum has several paintings by the impressionists on exhibition, notably two Claude Monets, a portrait by an impressionist will be a novelty. This canvas is large, being about six feet square. Mme. Charpentier, a woman young and elegant in appearance, is seated on a sofa enriched with flowers. She is looking at her two little girls, one of whom is petting a great St. Bernard lying on the floor.

The Fine Arts institute of Kansas City has been formally organized with the election of the following officers: President, J. C. Ford, the former president of the Fine Arts Club; F. M. Furgason, vice president; Louis H. Owen, treasurer, and Professor G. B. Penny, secretary. A public inauguration of these officers will be held early in June, at which time some interesting announcements of plans for the institute's work are to be made. An exhibit of pictures by local artists is scheduled for the early fall.

The Boston Art Museum will open its tenth annual Summer exhibition of oils May 31 and close September 22, 1907.

The annual exhibition of the Chicago Architectural Club, which opened recently, in the Art Institute, though obviously a professional exhibition, nevertheless has many popular and interesting features. It is devoted almost entirely to civic architecture. One especially attractive group of drawings is that entered in the competition of the Beaux Arts Society of New York for a foreign scholarship. Another set showing beauty and practicability are those of Jules Guerin, revealing various improvements in the City of Washington executed for the government.

NECROLOGY OF ART.

Victor Bernstrom, a wood-engraver, died in Europe on March 13, 1907. Born in Sweden 62 years ago, Mr. Bernstrom first went to London where he was on the staff of the "Graphic;" then coming to New York he became associated with Harper Brothers. Joining the Society of American Wood Engravers he was a constant contributor and received awards at the Chicago, Buffalo, and St. Louis Expositions. Later he devoted his time to landscape work in color where his subtle feeling for tone qualities was given a wider field.

George B. Butler, N. A., the portrait painter, died at his home near Croton Falls, Westchester County, N. Y., in his seventieth year. He was an artist of repute and had lived for many years abroad, having at different times studios in Rome, Capri, and Venice. After studying Art with Thomas Hicks in the fifties he went abroad and studied with Couture, the famout French artist, and returned to New York shortly before the Civil War. He joined the Seventh Regiment the day before it left for Washington, April 19, 1861, and shortly after the return of the regiment he joined the regular army as a private and served in the Cavalry and artillery for a few months, when he received a commission in the Third Infantry. At Gettysburg, while in command of his company, he was shot in the right arm, which necessitated its amputation above the elbow. Later he resigned from the service and took up his neglected art, having a studio in this city. In 1873 he was elected a National Academician and painted here until 1874, when he went to Italy and remained there for a number of years. Upon his return to this country he again set up a studio here. Because of illness he was not a contributor to the exhibitions for several years.

Professor Thomas S. Noble, for thirty-five years head of the Cincinnati Art School, and well known as a painter, died in the Presbyterian Hospital, in New York. An operation, not serious in itself, was performed, but Professor Noble, owing to his advanced age, did not rally from the shock. Professor Noble was seventy-four years old. He was born in Lexington, Ky., and studied in Munich and Paris and in this country. Soon after his return to the United States he was selected by Nicholas Longworth, father of Representative Longworth, to head the Cincinnati Art School, of which Mr. Longworth was the founder. He remained in that place thirty-five years, retiring three years ago, when he went to Bensonhurst to make his home. During his long connection with the Cincinnati school Professor Noble was the teacher of many well known artists.

Henry Whelen, Jr., president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, died at Clovelydale, his residence in Devon. He suffered from a cold which developed into pneumonia, which was complicated by an attack of pleurisy. Mr. Whelen was a patron of the musical, as well as the plastic Arts. For many years he had given his attention to the collection of works of Art. He possessed one of the finest collections of Washington prints and acquired most of the Washingtoniana of his father-in-law, Washington S. Baker.

George de Mare, the former Chicago artist, who lost his life by jumping from his studio on the fifth floor of a burning building in Kansas City, was a grandson of the eminent Chicago artist, the late George P. A. Healy. He was well known in art circles. A native Chicagoan, Professor de Mare was taken at an early age to Europe. He was educated in Paris and lived abroad until a few years ago. On his return to this city he opened a studio in the Lambert Tree Building, North State and Ontario streets, Chicago. He soon won distinction as a painter of portraits. His work in painting the portraits of a number of Chicago women gained fame for him. Among those whose portraits he painted here were Mrs. Robert F. Hall, Mrs. Nettleton Neff and Mrs. W. Ernest Walker. On the paternal as well as the maternal side he inherited artistic talent, his father, the late Tiburce de Mare, being a noted Parisian painter. Since his decision to make his home in his native land Professor de Mare held various responsible positions in leading art institutions of the country. For some years prior to the death of his grandmother, Mrs. G. P. A. Healy, in 1905, the professor, his mother and sisters made their home at the Healy residence, 55 Cedar street. About two years ago he was appointed art director in the Kansas City high school.

Howard Helmick, a genre painter and etcher of some distinction, died at his home in New York on April 28 after a long illness. He was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1845, studied art in Paris under Cabanel and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and spent some of his best years in England. He was a member of the Royal Society of British Artists and of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers. He was one of the first to take to color etching, his illustrations having appeared in some of the leading publications, and one of his paintings, "The Emigrant's Letter," is included in the permanent collection of the Corcoran gallery.